



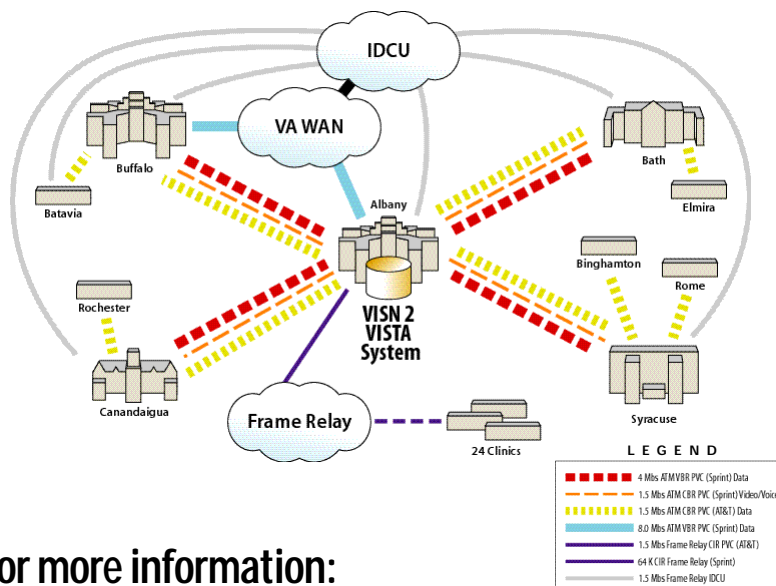
VISN 2 VISTA Database Integration

Access to data and sharing of best information practices are the goals of VISN 2's integration of its five Medical Center VistA databases. The process included a three phase integration. The VISN database was available July 1, 2000.

Preparation of the files required discussion, extensive review, and collaboration of all five systems. Subject matter experts, Application Coordinators and Computer Specialists complemented the 30+ VISN represented workgroups.

Patient data is accessible between VISN sites. Community based outpatient Providers can easily consult to the patient's choice of VA referral centers. Standardization and sharing of documentation tools is facilitating compliance with review bodies. Administrative efficiencies have been realized through vendor pools, network licensing, and sharing of Computer Specialist resources.

One common database for five medical centers seeking common healthcare goals is proving successful within VISN 2. Ease in accessing data and standardization of practice is occurring due to the VISTA database integration.



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Visit VISN 2's Database Integration Web Page at:
vawww.visn2.med.va.gov/cslines/serviceline/is/dbi/dbiindex.html

Business Drivers

- VISN 2 Healthcare Delivery Processes
- Care and Service Lines Management
- Computerized Patient Medical Record
- Rapid Process Changes using Network Centric Models
(Clinical Reminders, Encounter Forms, Military History, Network Authorization Office, MCCF, DSS)

Benefits

- Availability of Patient and Administrative data VISN-wide
- Information which supports Continuity of Care for Veterans
- Identification and use of Best Practices
- Database which supports Data Analysis at the VISN level
- Standardization of Business and Information Practices
- Optimization of Resources

Challenges

- Standardization of Business Processes
- Identification, Acceptance and Implementation of Best Practices
- VISTA Software multidivisional functionality
- Information Technology Resources (Staffing and Skill Sets, Systems and Network Infrastructure, Redundancy and Contingency Plans)
- Continued Organizational needs

Infrastructure

- VISN VISTA System located in Albany
- Failsoft VISTA Environment
- Disaster VISTA System located in Buffalo
- VISN Area Network
- Redundant VISN Area Network
- Connectivity to National VA WAN
- VISTA System Managers (4)
- VISN WAN Managers (6)

Timeline

Phase 3 • 7/2000
Albany—Legacy
Bath—Legacy

Phase 2 • 4/2000
Syracuse—Legacy

Phase 1 • 10/1999
Buffalo—Primary
Canandaigua—Legacy

